

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 and ending at page 4, line 9 as follows:

The present invention provides a method of managing ideas, comprising the step of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions, wherein said ideas include needs and requirements of said inventions; and

~~wherein step (a) is combined with one or more of the following steps, to wit:~~

(b) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to the database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, wherein said transfer is for contingent economic gain; ~~or~~

~~(c) providing contingent contractual rights to at least some inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; or~~

~~(d) enabling receipt of contributions of said ideas for prospective entry into said database; combined with~~

~~(e) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas to transferees other than contributors of ideas from which said invention was at least in part derived; or~~

~~(f) enabling ideas contributed to said database to be integrated within said computer database to thereby facilitate derivation of inventions from said integrated ideas; combined with~~

~~(g) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas; combined with~~

~~(h) systematically establishing contractual obligations by said contributors to permit immediate public disclosure of said ideas contributed by said contributors; or~~

~~step (d) combined with~~

~~(i) systematically establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas to a proprietor of said database or to a party in concert with said proprietor; or~~

~~step (h) combined with~~

~~(j) effecting transfer of property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas to transferees other than contributors of said ideas from which said invention was at least in part derived; or~~

~~step (h) combined with~~

~~(k) systematically effecting transfer of property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas to a proprietor of said database or to a party in concert with said proprietor; or~~

~~(l) establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, wherein upon establishing said obligations the transferees are not identified; or~~

~~step (h) combined with~~

~~(m) requiring persons to enter into a membership as a prerequisite for viewing a portion of said database containing at least some of said accumulated ideas; or~~

~~step (h) combined with~~

~~(n) requiring contributors of ideas for prospective entry into said database to enter into a membership as a prerequisite for contributing ideas for entry into said database; or~~

~~step (h) combined with~~

~~(o) systematically entering into said database all ideas contributed for entry into said database; or~~

~~step (g) combined with~~

~~(p) systematically entering into said database ideas contributed for entry into said database without requiring any contributor of said ideas to have subject matter expertise as a prerequisite for entry of said contributions; or~~

~~step (g) combined with~~

~~(q) facilitating preparation and/or filing of patent applications for at least some of said derived inventions; or~~

~~step (h) combined with~~

~~(r) requiring contributors of ideas to said database to have subject matter expertise as a prerequisite for contributing ideas for prospective entry into said database; or~~

~~(s) establishing contractual obligations by contributors of said ideas to said database to transfer property rights to inventions derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas, wherein said transfer is for actual economic gain; combined with~~

~~(t) selectively entering only some of said contributed ideas into said database; or~~

~~step (m) combined with step (g) combined with step (t); or~~

~~step (r) combined with step (g) combined with step (t); or~~
~~step (n) combined with step (g) combined with step (t); or~~
~~step (f) combined with step (g) combined with step (t).~~